

5 We claim:

1. A pet chew comprising a plurality of contrasting animal hide strips joined together,
at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining,
said pet chew configured to display substantial portions of each of said plurality of
contrasting animal hide strips on the exterior surface of the chew.

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2. The chew of claim 1 wherein said contrasting animal hide strips contrast in at least one
of flavor, color, texture and material.

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3. The chew of claim 1 wherein said animal hide strips are joined together by means of at
least one operation selected from the group consisting of intertwining, tying, binding, rolling,
folding, overlaying, looping, braiding, twisting, wrapping and knotting.

4. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide
strips treated to be non-staining is flavored with a flavoring agent.

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5. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide
strips treated to be non-staining is flavored with a flavoring agent and at least another of said
plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining is flavored with a different
flavoring agent.

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6. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide
strips treated to be non-staining is colored with a colorant.

5 7. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining is colored with a colorant and at least another of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining is colored with a different colorant.

10 8. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining is textured with a texture appetizing to a pet.

15 9. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining is obtained from the hide of a first animal species and at least another of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips is obtained from the hide of a second animal species different from said first animal species.

 10. The chew of claim 9 wherein said contrasting animal hide strips are cowhide and pighide strips.

20 11. The chew of claim 1 wherein said chew is configured to display substantially equal portions of each of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips on the exterior surface of the chew.

25 12. The chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said contrasting animal hide strips further contains at least one additional ingredient selected from the group consisting of nutrients, dental additives, pharmaceutical compounds and mixtures thereof.

 13. The chew of claim 11 wherein said nutrients are selected from the group consisting of vitamins, minerals, herbs, anti-oxidants, and nutritional supplements.

5 14. The chew of claim 11 wherein said pharmaceutical compounds are selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, antibiotics, anti-parasitic agents, and animal-coat enhancing compounds.

10 15. The chew of claim 1, wherein said chew has the configuration of a knotted bone.

16. The pet chew of claim 1 wherein at least one of said plurality of contrasting animal hide strips treated to be non-staining contacts a surface when the chew is placed upon the surface.

15 17. A method of making a non-staining pet chew comprising at least one colored component, comprising the steps of:

- a. Providing animal hide split which has been cleaned and bleached;
- b. Providing a coloring solution comprising a colorant;
- c. Marinating the animal hide split in the coloring solution for a sufficient time to allow the coloring solution to penetrate the animal hide.

20 d. Fixing the color to prevent staining comprising adding a sufficient amount of an edible acid to the marinating animal hide split of step c. until a desired pH is achieved.

- e. Cutting the split into strips having a desired configuration;
- f. Forming at least one strip of step e. into a pet chew having a desired configuration.

25 18. The method of claim 17 wherein in step d. the desired pH is in the range of 5.0 to 5.8.

19. The method of claim 17 including, anytime after step d., an additional step of flavoring the chew by means of at least one operation selected from the group consisting of dipping, soaking, basting, spraying, marinating or painting.

5 20. The method of claim 17 including, after step f., an additional step of drying and sterilizing said pet chew by exposing said pet chew to a suitable temperature for a sufficient time to effect drying and sterilizing.